advanced N-devices" says scientists of Washington after analysing seismic data recorded around the world in the wake of May, 1998 underground nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and believe that India "exaggerated the size of their weapons"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is well known that seismic data alone cannot enable determination of the type of fissile material used in nuclear weapons (or devices). Neither such data can, obviously, enable analysis of "the level of advancement", achieved.

It may be pointed out that Western seismologists, initially, under estimated the yield of the Shakti' 98 tests conducted on 11 May, 1998. Our own estimates indicate that the cumulative yield was 60 KT, with 15 KT being contributed by the fission device and 45KT by the thermo nuclear devices. Of late. Western seismologists, using data from 125-seismic stations have estimated the cumulative yield from the May 11 tests at about 60KT which is close to our estimate.

Indo-US defence relations

3841. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Secretary has invited the Defence Minister to explore the outlook for bilateral relationship; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Raksha Mantri received an invitation in early May, 1998 from the US Secretary of Defence to visit the United States of America at a mutually convenient time. No dates for the visit have been finalised.

Recruitments in Navy and Air Force in Kerala

3842. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recruitment to the Navy and Air Force is taking place in Kerala; and

(b) whether Government will open recruitment centre of Navy and Air Force in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Naval and Air Force Recruitment Centres already exist at Kochi in Kerala.

सैनिक बेड़े का आधुनिकीकरण

3843. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव**: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी से देश के सैनिक बेड़े और तीनों सेवाओं को आधुनिक बनाने की कोई योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस उद्यम हेतु कितनी निजी कम्पनियां आगे आई हैं और इस संबंध में क्या-क्या निबंधन और शर्तें निर्धारित की गई हैं;

(घ) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में इस उद्यम हेतु कुल कितनी राशि स्वीकृत की गई और उक्त अवधि के दौरान कुल कितनी राशि का उपयोग किया गया; और

(ङ) सरकार द्वारा चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान इस उद्यम पर कितनी राशि निवेश करने का प्रस्ताव है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) और (ख) देश की तीनों सेनाओं तथा सैन्य बेड़े का आधुनिकीकरण एक ऐसा कार्य है जिस पर सरकार का लगातार ध्यान रहता है। यद्यपि रक्षा आधुनिकीकरण में निजी क्षेत्र को शामिल करने के लिए कोई औपचारिक योजना नहीं बनाई गई है तथापि सरकार इस राष्ट्रीय प्रयास में निजी क्षेत्र की यथासम्भव भागीदारी के लिए उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करती है।

(ग) बहुत सी निजी कम्पनियां रक्षा उपस्कर के लिए प्रणालियों तथा उप-प्रणालियों के निर्माण में शामिल हैं।

(घ) और (ङ) ऐसे प्रयोजनों के लिए कोई निधियां विशिष्ट रुप से नियत नहीं की गई है।

Non-availability of items at CSD for O.Rs.

3844. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain items lilce corn flakes, refined groundnut oil, cosmetics and certain branded liquor and beer are generally not available in Other Ranks' counteV of CSD canteen, AF Station, New Delhi while these items are always available for officers; and

(b) whether Government will take action to see that the soldiers of the Defence Services are not treated this way due to misuse of authority by some officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir. All these items are available at all the counters irrespective of whether the counter is for officers or for Other Ranks. All personnel have access to all available goods and no discrimination is made for sale of CSD items.

(b) No case of misuse of authority has been reported.

Self service counters for O.Rs.

3845. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that while officers can get items not available in officers' counter from Other Ranks' counter of CSD canteen, Air Force Station, New Delhi, noncommissioned personnel and JCOs cannot do this vice-versa;

(b) whether Government will direct that all CSD canteens in the country should have common stock of all items for both officers, and other ranks; and

(c) whether Government would order that in CSD canteens where officers are provided self service counters, fhe other ranks should also be provided self service counters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir. All items available in the canteen are sold to all customers irrespective of rank on 'first come first served' basis.

(b) It has been the constant endeavour of CSD to improve the services provided at the CSD canteens. All items available are sold without any discrimination. All counters cater for and have common store for all ranks.

(c) Efforts are being made to provide self service facilities at the canteens which is dependent upon space, manpower and resources available.

Financial bunglings in CSD worlcs

3846. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be peased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that financial bunglings of several lakhs of rupees in the renovation/ construction works of CSD, canteen. Air Force Station, New Delhi, have taken place; and

(b) whether Government would order an enquiry by CBI to unearth the bunglings and t6 bring the culprits to book?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

Apprentices trained by HAL

3847. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of apprentices trained by Hinuustan Aeronautics who